(b) the name of places in the State where new post offices offices and branch post offices are likely to be opened in the next three years; and

(c) the number of post offices upgraded in Meghalaya during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post offices opened in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years are as under:

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Nil	Nil	5	4 till now

(b) The annual Plan for the next three years is yet to be finalized.

(c) The number of Post Offices upgraded in Meghalaya during the last three years are as under:

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Nil	1	Nil	1 till now

Revision of Telegraph Act

1254. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telegraph Act, 1885 is not relevant today in view of Government's new planning policy in this regard; and

(b) if so, by when it would be revised to make it relevant and up-to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been amended from time to time to cater to the changing requirements in the sector. Keeping in view the major changes and technological developments in the Telecom Sector, this enactment is being reviewed by a group constituted under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The Group is likely to give its report by the end of March, 2000.